

pillars, only lighted up the central group,
consisting of
Sulti and Marta in the highest place, the
English priest
in his turban and cassock, the grotesque
visage of Shlimon
the Jester, and the beautiful face and figure
and splendid
dress of Ishai the Patriarch's brother, as
proud as proud
can be, but sitting among the retainers of
his ancient
house playing on a musical instrument, the
hereditary
familiarity of serf and lord blending with such
expressions
of respect as " your foot is on my eyes," and
the favourite
asseveration, " by the Head of Mar Shimun."
The black-
ness in which the lofty roof was lost, the big
ovens with
their busy groups, the rows of men, half-seen
in the dim-
ness, lounging on natural ledges of rock, and
the uphill
floor with its uncouth plenishings, made up
such a picture as
the feudalism of our own middle ages might
have presented.
My letter¹ from the Turkish Ambassador at
Tihran
was sent to Julamerik this afternoon, and has
produced
another *zaptieh*, and an apology! I. L. B.

¹ Translation of a letter given to the author by His
Excellency the
Turkish Ambassador to the Court of Tihran.

" Among the honoured of English ladies is Mrs. Bishop.
On this tour
of travel she has a letter of recommendation from the
Exalted Government
of England, issued by the English Embassy in Tihran, and
earnest request
is made that in her passage through the Imperial
Territory she be well
protected. As far as *ssaptiehs* are necessary let them be
given for her
safety, all necessary provision for her most comfortable
travel be per-
fected, and all her requests from the High Government
of the Osmanlis
be met.

" That all courtesy and attention be shown to this
distinguished lady,
this letter is given from the Embassy at Tihran."

As various statements purporting to be narratives of
attacks made upon

me in Turkey have appeared in Russian and other papers,
I take this opportunity of saying that they are devoid of any
foundation. I was never robbed while in the dominion of His Majesty the Sultan:
courtesy was shown me by all the Turkish officials between the Persian frontier
and Erzerum, and efficient escorts of steady and respectful *zaptiehs* were
readily supplied.